

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Keith L. Milliman et al. Docket: 1924DIV3CON2
(203-2145 DIV3CON2)

Serial No.: 10/700,250 Group: Unknown

Filed: November 3, 2003 Dated: January 30, 2004

For: **SURGICAL STAPLING APPARATUS**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

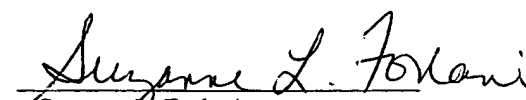
Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 30, 2004.

Dated: January 30, 2004


Suzanne L. Forlani